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16 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
17 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
18 **OAKLAND DIVISION**

19 *In re:*

20 THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF
21 OAKLAND, a California corporation sole,
22 Debtor.

Case No. 23-40523 WJL

Chapter 11

**DECLARATION OF THE
HONORABLE RANDALL J.
NEWSOME (RET.)**

Judge: Hon. William J. Lafferty
Hearing Date: January 17, 2024
Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: United States Bankruptcy Court
1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 220
Oakland, CA 94612

1 I, Randall J. Newsome, hereby declare and state as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney, duly admitted and in good standing in the State of Ohio, currently
3 on inactive status. I am the founder and principal of Randall Newsome ADR and Consulting LLC,
4 which is located in Nevada City, California. I was a bankruptcy judge for 28 years, and served as
5 the Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California in Oakland from
6 2004 until I retired from the bench in 2010. I have spent the last 13 years primarily serving in
7 various neutral capacities, particularly as a mediator.

8 2. In the course of my practice I have continued to serve as a mediator in large-scale
9 multi-plaintiff and mass tort cases, such as:

- 10 • Bankruptcy case of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee;
11 • Bankruptcy case of the Diocese of Gallop, New Mexico;
12 • Both bankruptcy cases filed by PG&E Corp.

13 3. I have extensive experience conducting mediations. In addition to the above
14 summary I have attached my Curriculum Vitae as **Exhibit 1** hereto.

15 4. I have made the following investigation of disinterestedness and connections prior
16 to submitting this Declaration: In connection with my proposed retention as Mediator, I was
17 provided a Schedule of Interested Parties, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. I
18 reviewed the Schedule of Interested Parties and concluded that I do not have any conflicts with
19 any of the entities listed therein.

20 5. To the best of my knowledge, I do not represent any interest adverse to the Debtor
21 or any party in interest in the matters upon which I am to be engaged.

22 6. I have not been retained by the Diocese of Oakland for any matter. I do not hold a
23 position as a trustee, claims review, consultant or future claimants representative to any
24 bankruptcy trust.

25 7. I am not affiliated nor have any connection with the Office of the United States
26 Trustee or any of its employees.

27 8. I have not received any transfer, assignment or pledge of property of the Debtor's
28 estate or any of the holders of abuse claims as of the date of this Declaration.

1 9. I have not shared or agreed to share with any other person any compensation to be
2 paid with respect to this Chapter 11 Case.

3 10. The terms of employment, subject to Court approval, would be as follows: \$900
4 per hour for mediation preparation and mediation sessions that extend beyond 8 hours, and \$9,000
5 per day for mediation sessions. My hourly rate is subject to periodic adjustments to reflect
6 economic and other conditions, with the hourly rate charged being the hourly rate in effect on the
7 date that the services are performed. I understand that all pre-confirmation hourly rates, fees, and
8 expenses are subject to approval by the Court.

9 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the
10 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

11 January 10, 2024

12 By:


13 **Randall J. Newsome**

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Exhibit 1

[see attached]